release 14,741 metric tons of rice every month for Andhra Pradesh has so far not released the quota for the month of June;

(c) if so, whether the main reason for this was that it had not received the approval of the Union Ministry of Food;

(d) if so, whether due to non-supply of rice, this scheme has been abandoned in the State;

(e) whether in July also the quota was not released; and

(f) the main reasons for not providing rice every month to the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information furnished by the Food Corporation of India, 13407 Mts. of rice has been lifted by the implementing agency in Andhra Pradesh against the monthly allocation of 14741 Mts. of rice for June, 1996.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) According to the information frunished by the Food Corporation of India, 14112 Mts. of rice has been lifted in July, 1996 against the monthly allocation of 14741 Mts. of rice.

(f) Does not arise.

Dissolving of Divisional and Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees

*405. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has dissolved the Zonal and Divisional Railways Users' Consultative Committees;

(b) whether the Board is taking steps to constitute the above Committees immediately; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

CBI Enquiry against Train Ticket Checkers

*406. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has conducted any enquiry against those train ticket checkers working in Northern Railway who were found guilty and were suspended as a result of the CBI enquiry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether those suspended persons are indulging in corrupt activities and are extracting unaccounted money from the passengers; and

(d) if so, the names of those persons [illegible] suspended and whether Government propose to terminate the services of those ticket checkers who have been caught red-handed by the CBI during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last two years CBI conducted 11 checks holding 20 Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs) guilty. Disciplinary Action has been initiated against the said 20 staff out of which five were initially suspended also.

(c) No such instance has come to notice so far.

(d) Names of the suspended employees are:

Name (S/Shri)

1. Shiv Ratan Singh/Shahjahanpur
2. Gurdeep Singh, Conductor/Moradabad.
3. V.P. Singh, TTE/Moradabad.
4. Sita Ram Mehra, Hd. TTE/Jodhpur

5. S.C. Pruthi, Train Supdt. / New Delhi.

Action under Discipline and Appeal Rules (D&AR) is under process. Termination or other punishment can only be considered after finalisation of DAR enquiry proceedings on merit of each case.

सुपरफास्ट मेल / एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियां चलाया जाना

*407. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**
श्री एस॰ हसत सुरजेवाला:

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:—

(क) क्या देश में सुपरफास्ट मेल / एक्सप्रेस रेलगाड़ियां चलाए जाने पर अधिक बल दिया जा रहा है;

(ख) वर्तमान स्थिति के अनुसार दोनों तरह की रेलगाड़ियों से संबंधित तुलनात्मक आंकड़े क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या राजधानी एक्सप्रेस की तुलना में सुपरफास्ट मेल / एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों की मांग अधिक है क्योंकि इनसे अधिक यात्रियों की जरूरतें पूरी होती हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इन रेलगाड़ियों के संबंध में कोई अन्य योजना तैयार की है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) से (घ) राजधानी तथा सुपरफास्ट मेल एक्सप्रेस दोनों प्रकार की गाड़ियां चलाने के लिए जोरदार मांग है। इस समय 10 जोड़ी राजधानी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियां तथा 52 जोड़ी सुपरफास्ट गाड़ियां मौजूद हैं। भारतीय रेलों पर गाड़ियां चलाना, जिनमें सुपरफास्ट / राजधानी एक्सप्रेस गाड़िया शामिल हैं; एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है जो परिचालनिक व्यावहारिकता, यातायात के औचित्य तथा संसाधनों की उपलब्ता पर निर्भर करता है।

Report of Expert Group on Petrochemicals

*408. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Group on Petrochemicals under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohan has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of its recommendations;

(c) whether this report is available for sale or for reference purpose;

(d) if so, the place where it is available and the price thereof and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Important recommendations of the Expert Group on Petrochemicals under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohan are:

—Import duties should be levied based on the stage of.

—Value addition, mildy increasing duty along the value chain with higher duties on finished products, but with an overall compressed tariff structure.

—Import duties on polymers and chemicals should be reduced to 25% and 30% respectively by 1997-98.

—Import duties on fibre intermediates should be brought down to 25% in terminal year i.e. 1997-98.

—Import duties on fibre should be brought down to 30% in the terminal year i.e. 1997-98.

—Import duties on building blocks should be brought down to 10%, intermediate building blocks to 15% and feedstocks to zero percent by 1997-98.

—In respect of intermediates like xylenes, paraffins and cyclohexane, duty rate should be brought down to 20% in the terminal year.

—Exercise duty rates should be brought down between 0% to 23% in a phased manner.

—Anti-dumping measures should be strengthened and specific anti-